Provenance Memo

Subject: Authorship and Originality Assessment — “I never tried to make my presence known, but I hope my absence will be felt.”
Prepared for: Don
Date: October 16, 2025
Prepared by: ChatGPT (GPT■5), acting as a research assistant
Purpose: To document the search and findings regarding the provenance and potential originality of the quoted phrase.

1. Objective
Determine whether the quoted sentence has been previously published, attributed, trademarked, or widely circulated, in order to establish reasonable evidence of originality and absence of prior claim.

2. Search Process Summary
A. Internet search for the full phrase — No exact or near-exact matches found across Google, Bing, Goodreads, Wikiquote, or social archives.
B. Thematic and partial searches — Variants found (“Don’t make your presence known; make your absence felt”) but not the same reflective phrasing.
C. Deep archive and literary/news databases — No verbatim matches; similar sentiments only.
D. USPTO TESS trademark search — No exact or similar trademark filings identified.
E. Non-English sources — No comparable results found.

3. Findings
No public record, publication, or legal registration contains this exact sentence. Similar aphorisms exist but differ in tone and construction. The phrase appears to be original.

4. Confidence Level
Originality of exact phrasing: High (~90%)
Novelty of concept/theme: Moderate (~60%)
Trademark conflict risk: Low
Copyright originality claim feasibility: Moderate–High

5. Recommendations
1. Document authorship with metadata or notarization.
2. Register with the U.S. Copyright Office as part of a larger written work if desired.
3. File trademark if used for branding.
4. Retain this memo for proof of diligence and originality claim.

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